



Attorney's Docket No. 031599/259284

IFW
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Stevens, et al.
Appl No.: 10/602,030
Filed: 06/23/2003
For: FLEX PANEL LID OR CAP

Confirmation No.: 9561
Group Art Unit: 3727
Examiner: Niki Marina Eloshway

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 7, 2004, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-24, and Group II, namely Claims 25-37. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-24) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. Roberson
Registration No. 52,171

CUSTOMER No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

Appl No.: 10/602,030
Amdt. dated 12/14/2004
Reply to Restriction Requirement of December 7, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment,
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 14, 2004

Sheila Hayes
Sheila Hayes

CLT01/4685912v1

